

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00311 190015Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----050387 190022Z /15
R 170719Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7442

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0311

NODIS CHEROKEE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: GW RO SHUM
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON DISCUSSION
OF HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WITH ROMANIANS

REF: BUCHAREST 0223

1. FRG AMBASSADOR BALKEN HAS CONVEYED TO ME CHANCELLOR
HELMUT SCHMIDT'S IMPRESSIONS OF RECENT TETE-A-TETE WITH
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ON BILABERL HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
WHICH CHANCELLOR ASKED BE CONVEYED TO SECRETARY VANCE
IN PROTECTED PRIVATE CHANNEL.

2. WHILE NOT AT ALL PUBLICIZED, TALKS ON EMIGRATION AND
OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED ON PRIOR TO
SCHMIDT VISIT IN BONN AND IN BUCHAREST BETWEEN FRG STATE
SECRETARY GUENTHER VAN WELL AND VASILE PUNGAN, HEAD OF
CEAUSESCU'S GROUP OF COUNSELORS. IN BUCHAREST SCHMIDT
AND CEAUSESCU DISCUSSED EMIGRATION DURING TETE-A-TETE
LASTING OVER TWO HOURS. WHILE THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT
AND NO WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING NUMBERS, SCHMIDT'S
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EXPECTATION IS THAT FRG WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED BY FUTURE
ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE. MOST RECENT ANNUAL FIGURE FOR
EMIGRATION TO FRG WAS BETWEEN 10 AND 11,000, THE
HIGHEST FIGURE SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED
IN 1967. IF SAME FIGURES ARE REACHED DURING NEXT TWO
YEARS, FRG FEELING IS THAT MAJOR PRESSURE ON PROBLEM WILL
BE RELIEVED. BALKEN ESTIMATED THERE IS AT OUTSIDE A

POTENTIAL TOTAL OF 80,000 GERMANO-ROMANIANS WHO CONSIDERED
EMIGRATING TO FRG.

3. BALKEN SAID TALKS WERE FRIENDLY BUT WITH ROMANIANS
HOLDING TO THEIR POSITION THAT THEY DO NOT AT ALL
ENCOURAGE EMIGRATION BUT DO AGREE TO DEAL WITH FAMILY
REUNIFICATION AND BINATIONAL MARRIAGE PROBLEMS IN THE
SPIRIT OF RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND
HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. PARAGRAPH ON FAMILY REUNION
IN JOINT DECLARATION WAS ACCEDED TO BY ROMANIANS ONLY
AFTER PERSISTENT AND UNWAVERING FRG INSISTANCE. IN
TETE-A-TETE SCHMIDT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY LINK CONTINUING
GERMAN FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION TO ROMANIAN
PERFORMANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT HE DID MAKE CLEAR TO
CEAUSESCU THAT THESE QUESTIONS WERE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS
IN OVERALL FRG RELATIONSHIP WITH ROMANIA AND WEIGHTED IN
BALANCE OF DECISIONS ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS.

4. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ASKED THAT SECRETARY VANCE BE
INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH FRG BELIEVE INDICATE
THAT QUIET APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH ROMANIANS CAN BE PRODUCTIVE.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 1-17-78
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR00311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMB
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850101-2415, N780001-0489
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780157/aaaabvov.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1d5cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 BUCHAREST 223
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3765048
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNICATION FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON DISCUSSION OF HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WITH ROMANIANS
TAGS: SHUM, PHUM, GE, RO, US, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1d5cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014